उपक्रमों के पुनर्वास के लिए अनेक कदम उठाए हैं जिनमें केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकारें द्वारा वित्तीय सहायता और रियायतें तथा राहत सहायता प्रदान करना शामिल हैं।

Problems of Delhi

1780. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent report of the Institute of Economic Studies, Delhi which urged the Government to take drastic steps to save Delhi, from pollution, traffic congestion and increasing accidents and scarcity of civic services; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and whether the above problems are being studied in depth with a view to providing solutions to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is already seized of the problem and various steps like modifications in the Master Plan with 2001 A.D. Perspective, shifting of industries from non-conforming areas to conforming areas, non-registration of new industrial units having pollution potential have been taken or are under way.

Panchayat elections in Punjab

1781. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken td hold elections to Panchayats in Punjab; and

(b) if so, by when these elections are proposed to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes.

(b) Elections are likely to be held shortly.

Education and Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped

1782. SHRIMATI SUDHA VUAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of th© schemes under implementation for the welfare, education and rehabilitation of physically handicapped persons;

(b) whether any job reservation is proposed to be made for the physically handicapped;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) A Statement is Annexed *(See* below).

(b) to (d) 3% vacancies in Central Government in group C and D posts and in comparable posts in Central Public undertakings have been reserved for physically handicapped—one per cent each for the blind, deaf and the orthopaedically handicapped.

Statement

The primary responsibility for the welfare and upliftment of the handicapped rests with the State Government. However, in its coordinating and pace-setting role, the Centre has been assisting the State Government as well as the voluntary organisations in programmes designed for rehabilitation of the handicapped. The Central Government has set up

the following 4 National Institutes as apex level organisations in their respective areas of disability:—

(1) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.
(2) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicappped, Calcutta.
(3) Ali Yavarjung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay.
(4) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.

In addition to these the following two Institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons:—

(1) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.
(2) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Olat-pur, Orissa.

The Central Govt, is also implementing the following programmes for the education & rehabilitation of the handicapped:—

Schemes of Assistance to Organisations for the Disabled Persons.

Under this scheme, grant-in-aid is provided to the organisations working for the welfare of disabled persons. 90% financial assistance is given to such voluntary organisations who provide education, training and rehabilitation, facilities to disabled persons.

Assistance under the scheme is provided for developing services for (i) detection, intervention of primary nature, prevention of disability, (ii) education andbr training, (jii) Rehabilitation—physical, psychological, social and econorpic.

Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/ Appliances.

Under this scheme grants are given to voluntary organisations for providing aids & appliances whose value ranges between Rs. 25 /- and Rs. 3600 /- to disabled persons (i) free of cost if their income is less than Rs. 1200 /- per month and (ii) at 50% cost if the income ranges between Rs. 1201 /- to Rs. 2500 /- per month. This scheme is implemented through voluntary agencies spread all ove* the country.

Under the scheme, aids & appliances are provided to the visually handicapped, hearing handicapped and orthopaedically handicapped.

Scholarships for the Disabled Persons

Government of India have a scheme for providing scholarships to physically handicapped students, including the blind, for pursuing education from Class IX onwards. Scholarships are also provided for technical and professional training, correspondence courses of study and on-the-job training to the handicapped. In addition to the scholarship, which varies depending on the courses of study, for day scholars and hostellers, readers' allowance to the blind is also given.

Integrated Education of Children.

The scheme provides for 100%. assistance from Central Government to the State Government / UT Administrations for Education of the Handicapped Children in common schools with the help of necessary aids, incentives and special teachers.

District Rehabilitation Centre Programme

The scheme of District Rehabilitation Centres was launched on a pilot basis. Through these Centres, efforts are made to provide comprehensive and coordinated services to the disabled population

in the rural areas by suitably reorienting and augmenting the infrastructure so as to reach the services at a minimum cost with as few specialists as possible. So far 10 District Rehabilitation Centres have been set up across the country. During this year one more centre has been sanctioned for Sultanpur District in Uttar Pradesh.

Employment

(i) 3% reservation is given to physically handicapped—1% each for the visual, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in group C and D posts for appointment in Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings. Similar reservations have been given by the State Govt. The handicapped, including the blind, are, also given age concession in the upper age limit and relaxation in the medical standards for entry into Government services.

(ii) 22 Special Employment Exchanges and 42 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped, in their gainful employment. Besides, the normal employment exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen vocational rehabilitation centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-Employment is promoted through the following:—

(a) Allotment, of vending stalls, kiosks and petty shops,.

(b) Loans from Nationalised banks at nominal rates of interest under differential rate of interest scheme.

(c) Allotment of public telephone booths.

(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots, etc.

(e) Loans upto Rs. 35,000 /- are available under scheme of 'Employment of Educated Youths'.

Petrol Subsidy Scheme

Under this scheme 50 per cent of the cost of petroKdiesel purchased by handicapped owner of motorised vehicje, subject to certain ceiling, is reimbursed to them. All employ edtelf employed handicapped persons with income upto Rs. 2500 /- p.m. are covered under the scheme. This scheme has been decentralised and is implemented through the Statss'Union Territories with the Central Government providing 100 per cent expenditure on the scheme.

Dispersal of urban population

1783. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last few decades there has been a rapid growth in urban areas increasing density of population and creating problems of congestion, overgrowth, inadequacy of civic and transport services;

(b) whether this problem has been studied in depth; and

(c) whether any plans have been drawn up and are being implemented for dispersal of urban population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Urban development is a state subject and normally studies on such matters are made by the State Government. The National Commission on Urbanisation set up by the Central Government considered all aspects of urbanisation including the effect of rapid growth in urban areas etc.